



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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November 18, 1999

Ms. Sally Wisely
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155

Re: Request for Assistance to Complete Memo on Cottonwood Spring, Pacific Corp, Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018 Folder # 2, Emery County, Utah.

Dear Director Wisely:

I am writing to request the Bureau of Land Management's assistance in resolving a matter relating to Cottonwood Spring in Emery County, Utah. This issue, concerning the linking of diminishing spring flows and coal mining, has occupied a great amount of time of the Multi-Agency Coordination group for coal mine permitting in Utah. The Cottonwood Spring issue has been in monthly discussion since May 1998.

Last year, this division allowed for one of our hydrologists to spend four months, almost full time, to gather and develop data concerning this issue. At the end of this time, two of your technical staff performed a critical review of our agency's draft findings. We met on September 28, 1998 with Alan Rabinoff, Stan Perkes and Jim Kohler to review the shortcomings of our attempt to link mining and spring flows. As a result of the meeting, Oil, Gas and Mining (OGM) dropped all efforts to continue in the vein of asserting a connection between spring flow and mining. Instead, OGM moved forward with a decision and letter to the BLM and USFS in October 1998, and again in November 1999 with a letter to the USFS, affirming on both occasions that no cause and effect could be determined. On November 2, 1999, the Multi-Agency Coordination group met in Price and decided there was a need to hold a technical meeting of the BLM and USFS in order to present data and fill in conclusory gaps in the USFS files on the Cottonwood Spring Issue, the same flaws which your staff presented to OGM on September 28, 1998.

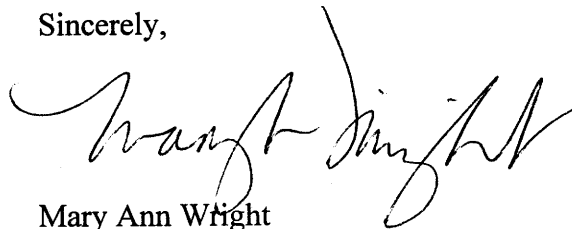
To summarize, this letter is my request to the BLM asking that your staff prepare a written summary of the deficiencies of the OGM review of the Cottonwood Spring matter as discussed September 28, 1998.

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I believe such a memo will do much to add to the record on this matter and will be a vital aid to entering the technical discussion which is soon to be scheduled.

Thank you kindly for your assistance in this matter. I appreciate OGM's continued coordination with your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Ann Wright".

Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director of Mining

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O:ACT.015/018/final.blmassist